

VISIT...

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Tutor Teaching Tips

The Mighty Saguaro Cactus (U)

MATERIALS

Graphic organizer

Leveled reader

Graphic organizer

Game cards;
Game board

Graphic organizer;
Leveled reader

Before Reading 3–5 minutes

BUILD BACKGROUND: Ask: *Have you ever seen a cactus? Where? What did it look like?* Have the child write what he/she knows about cactus in the first column.

PREVIEW THE BOOK: Show the child the covers of the book, and read the title. Ask: *What do you think this book is about?* Ask the child to write what he/she would like to find out about saguaro cacti in the middle column of the graphic organizer.

Open the book to the table of contents and read the chapter titles. Have the child predict some things he/she might learn about the cactus based on the headings.

Show the child the glossary. Tell him/her to use the glossary if he/she cannot figure out the meaning of a word from the context.

Look at each photograph in the book and point out the captions. Ask the child what he/she sees in each photo. Show the child the boxes titled “Do You Know?” and explain that these tell interesting facts about saguaros. Also point out the map and graph. Explain that each one provides additional information about saguaro cactus.

During Reading 10–15 minutes

Ask the child to read pages 4–13 aloud. If the child has difficulty, read the pages together. Then ask the child to read them independently. Have the child work out unfamiliar words by looking at the letters and word parts. Tell the child to think what word makes sense in the sentence. If the child cannot work out the word, tell him/her. Have the child reread the sentence with the word and then continue reading.

After Reading 10–15 minutes

RETELL: Ask the child what he/she learned about saguaros from reading pages 4–13. If necessary, prompt by asking: *What else did you learn?*

GRAPHIC ORGANIZER: Ask the child to circle any questions on the graphic organizer that were answered by reading pages 4–13. Have the child write what he/she learned about saguaros in the bottom section of the graphic organizer. If the child has difficulty, help him/her find the information in the book and read it aloud.

CRITICAL THINKING: Ask the child if he/she would like to live in the desert, and to explain why or why not.

VOCABULARY GAME: Read the word cards with the child. Then time the child to see how quickly he/she can match the correct word cards to the sentences on the game board. Have him/her repeat the activity to see if he/she can beat his/her time.

Home Connection

Have the child finish reading the book at home. Have him/her write what he/she learns from reading the rest of the book on the graphic organizer.

What I K now	What I W ant to Know
What I L earned	
How saguaros survive in the desert	
How saguaros support other desert life	
The saguaro life cycle	
Other	

INSTRUCTIONS: Write what you know and what you want to know about saguaro cactus before you read. Write what you learned when you finish reading.

The body of a dead saguaro cactus _____ and turns back into soil.

Baby Gila woodpeckers are safe from _____ inside a saguaro.

Birds, bats, and insects _____ the flowers by drinking nectar.

Many animals find the saguaro a _____ place to live.

Some _____ saguaros get struck by lightning.

Plants _____ when let out water through their leaves.

Late summer _____ bring rain, strong winds, and lightning to the desert.

The saguaro cactus is _____ well to the climate of the desert.

The saguaro only grows in the _____ Desert.

Leveled Reader

Game Cards

The Mighty Saguaro Cactus (U)



decomposes	predators	pollinate
hospitable	unfortunate	transpire
monsoons	adapted	Sonoran